

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An needle insertion guide tube comprising:

a guide tube body comprising a proximal end, a distal end, an inner diameter, and an outer surface;

said proximal end comprising a needle holding structure monolithically formed with said guide tube body, wherein said needle holding structure comprises a needle holding clamp, and a needle passing opening, wherein said needle holding clamp comprises a needle holding opening that is smaller than said needle passing opening, and further wherein said needle holding opening is sized to hold an acupuncture needle handle, and said needle passing opening is sized to freely pass the acupuncture needle handle.

2. (Original) The needle insertion guide tube according to claim 1, further comprising a rib formed on the outer surface adjacent said distal end.

3. (Original) The needle insertion guide tube according to claim 1, wherein said distal end comprises a distal needle passing structure monolithically formed with said guide tube body, wherein said distal needle passing structure comprises a tapered structure such that the inner diameter is narrowed at the distal end, wherein said distal needle passing structure is sized and configured not smaller than the handle of an acupuncture needle.

4. (Original) The needle insertion guide tube according to claim 1, wherein said needle holding structure further comprises a second needle holding clamp and a third needle holding clamp.

5. (Original) The needle insertion guide tube according to claim 4, wherein said needle holding structure further comprises a fourth needle holding clamp.

6. (Original) A needle insertion guide tube comprising:

a guide tube body comprising a proximal end, a distal end, an inner diameter, and an outer diameter;

said distal end comprising a distal needle passing structure monolithically formed with said guide tube body, wherein said distal needle passing structure comprises a tapered structure such that the inner diameter is narrowed at the distal end, wherein said distal needle passing structure is sized and configured not smaller than the handle of an acupuncture needle.

7. (Original) The needle insertion guide tube according to claim 6, wherein said proximal end comprises a needle holding structure monolithically formed with said guide tube body, wherein said needle holding structure comprises a needle holding clamp, and a needle passing opening, wherein said needle holding clamp comprises a needle holding opening that is smaller than said needle passing opening, and further wherein said needle holding opening is sized to hold an acupuncture needle handle, and said needle passing opening is sized to freely pass the acupuncture needle handle.

8. (Original) An acupuncture needle assembly comprising:

a guide tube body comprising a proximal end, a distal end, an inner diameter, and an outer surface;

said proximal end comprising a needle holding structure monolithically formed with said guide tube body, wherein said needle holding structure comprises a needle holding clamp, and a needle passing opening, wherein said needle holding clamp comprises a needle holding opening

that is smaller than said needle passing opening, and further wherein said needle holding opening is sized to hold an acupuncture needle handle, and said needle passing opening is sized to freely pass the acupuncture needle handle;

an acupuncture needle comprising a proximal handle, a needle body, and a polished point, wherein said acupuncture needle is disposed in said needle holding clamp.

9. (Original) An acupuncture needle assembly according to claim 8, wherein said acupuncture needle proximal handle comprises a helical coil, wherein said helical coil handle is ridged with concentric circles.

10. (Original) An acupuncture needle assembly according to claim 8, wherein said distal end comprises a distal needle passing structure monolithically formed with said guide tube body, wherein said distal needle passing structure comprises a tapered structure such that the inner diameter is narrowed at the distal end, wherein said distal needle passing structure is sized and configured not smaller than the handle of an acupuncture needle.

11. (Original) An acupuncture needle assembly according to claim 8, wherein the acupuncture needle and needle guide tube are packaged in a wrapping,

wherein said wrapping is made from a resinoid, that is attached to a sterile purpose paper.

12. (Original) An acupuncture needle assembly according to claim 9, wherein the acupuncture needle and needle guide tube are packaged in a wrapping,

wherein said wrapping is made from a resinoid, that is attached to a sterile purpose paper.